

LAT 40.53866

LON -121.55769

55-10

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE
California Forest and Range Experiment Station
Division of Forest Insect Research

FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
MAY, 1955
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

In connection with the maintenance control work normally done each spring in Lassen Volcanic National Park, a brief reconnaissance was conducted during the period May 23-25. Park Ranger Earl H. Lampi assisted in the survey; the Manzanita Lake, Lost Creek, and Butte Lake units were visited.

INSECT AND HOST SPECIES

The predominant insect-susceptible host tree in the Park, toward which insect control is normally directed, is Jeffrey pine. The insect enemy is the Jeffrey pine beetle, Dendroctonus jeffreyi Hopk.

STATUS AND SCOPE OF INFESTATION

Insect activity in the Park has been at a relatively high level during the past few years, and intensive control work has been done. It now appears that these control efforts, along with the natural enemies of the insect, have brought the Jeffrey pine beetle under control throughout the area. Currently infested trees are very scarce; some red-tops are visible in the forest east of Butte Lake, but these are abandoned 1953 kills or uninfested 1953 or 1954 lightning strikes. Heavy woodpecker work is noticeable in the few 1954 infested trees in the area.

The other two units, where control has been done during the past few seasons, are similarly free of currently-infested trees and, due to the 1953 and 1954 control work, contain practically no recently-killed timber.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Little control work is needed this spring, and the outlook for next year is also encouraging at the present time. Cleanup of the few trees noted will aid in maintaining a green stand and keeping the infestation at its current low level. A subsequent appraisal survey of the Park, particularly the Badger Mountain area, should be conducted in the fall. This will give additional data regarding the control work done there in 1954 and aid in keeping a check on the overall conditions.

SUMMARY

Forest insect conditions in Lassen Volcanic National Park were surveyed during the last week in May and were found to be remarkably favorable. Past control work and the action of natural factors have teamed up to bring the numbers of the Jeffrey pine beetle to a low level, and the current outlook is good.

Berkeley, California
June 2, 1955

R. E. Stevens
Entomologist